

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 SIL-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
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APPROVED BY STATE/EA/RA:PMCLEVELAND
LABOR/ILAB:HDSAMUEL (SUB)
LABOR/OSHA:BWHITING (INFO)
LABOR/ETA:RMCCONNON (INFO)
STATE/EA/RA:DHARRIS
EA/J - RKILPATRICK

-----025908 230823Z /20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OIVP, ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: MEETING OF SECRETARY OF LABOR AND JAPAN'S
MINISTER OF LABOR, JUNE 16.

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY MARSHALL AND MINISTER FUJII MET FOR
NEARLY THREE HOURS DURING A WORKING LUNCHEON AT THE DEPART-
MENT OF LABOR (DOL) AND SUBSEQUENT MEETING IN THE
SECRETARY'S OFFICE. THEIR DISCUSSION WAS WIDE-RANGING.
THEY AGREED THAT CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN DOL AND MOL
SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AND DISCUSSED WAYS TO BEGIN THE NEW
RELATIONSHIP. LABATT HIROMI INDICATED THAT MINISTER FUJII
HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH THE MEETING.

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2. MINISTER FUJII INVITED MARSHALL TO JAPAN BY SAYING THAT
HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING MARSHALL IN TOKYO WHEN HE
COMES TO OPEN A SERIES OF CONFERENCES WHICH WOULD
CONSTITUTE ONE ELEMENT OF THE NEW DOL-MOL RELATIONSHIP.
JOINT STUDIES AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ABOUT OCCUPA-
TIONAL HEALTH PROBLEMS MENTIONED AS OTHER AREAS FOR
COLLABORATION.

3. WIDE RANGING DISCUSSIONS TOUCHED UPON MANY TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. MINISTER FUJII WAS RELAXED AND ARTICULATED WELL THROUGH INTERPRETERS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE ILO WITHOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION AS "UNNATURAL" AND URGED U.S. RE-ENTRY. FUJII SAW THE ILO PROBLEM RELATED TO U.S. INTEREST INTERNATIONAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS. SECRETARY REITERATED THAT U.S. REGRETTED NEED TO WITHDRAW AND NOTED THAT WHEN ILO DIVERTED FROM ITS PROPER ROLE TO POLITICAL ISSUES, IT PROMOTED INTERNATIONAL FRICTION RATHER THAN COOPERATION. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT EVEN IF U.S. DOES NOT RETURN TO ILO, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS BASIC ILO OBJECTIVES AND LABOR STANDARDS.

ON EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS, FUJII NOTED STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS IN JAPAN RELATED TO ENERGY PROBLEM, YEN REVALUATION AND COMPETITION FROM LDCS. HE COMMENTED THAT JAPAN HAS SET UP FUND TO TAKE CARE OF WORKERS THROUGH VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN EFFORT TO ENHANCE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY.

THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT MANY PROBLEMS ARISE FROM ENERGY ISSUES AND FROM EXCESS INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY. U.S. IS EMPHASIZING SELECTIVE MANPOWER POLICIES IN ITS APPROACH TO SOLVING EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS. HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE WORTH EXPLORING HOW TO BRING THREE ELEMENTS TOGETHER -- NEEDS OF LDC'S FOR DEVELOPMENT, EXCESS SAVINGS, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND INDUSTRIAL EXCESS CAPACITY.

THE SECRETARY SAID WE SHOULD LOOK TOWARDS FREER TRADE BASED ON PROTECTION OF LABOR STANDARDS. ACTION TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE LABOR STANDARDS WOULD MEAN BETTER SUPPORT FOR AN OPEN TRADING WORLD. THE U.S. HAS BEEN STIMULATING ITS ECONOMY AND OTHER COUNTRIES MUST ALSO DO THIS. WORLD PROSPERITY DEPENDS IN GOOD PART ON FAIR INTERNATIONAL TRADE. THERE IS A LEGITIMATE CONCERN ABOUT UNFAIR COMPETITION WITHOUT YIELDING TO PROTECTIONISM. THAT IS THE PROBLEM WHICH USG IS ADDRESSING IN ITS EFFORTS WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS.

MINISTER FUJII, IN REFERRING TO JAPAN'S TRADE BALANCE AND PROBLEMS OF FREE TRADE, TALKED IN TERMS OF THE NEED FOR "LABOR DIPLOMACY," APPARENTLY IN THE CONTEXT OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND TRADE UNIONS.

IN DISCUSSING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, MINISTER FUJII INDICATED HIS MINISTRY'S SPECIAL INTEREST IN TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND HE DESCRIBED JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL DOCTOR PROGRAM. THE MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SHORTENING WORKING

HOURS IN JAPAN AND IN WORK-SHARING AS USEFUL TOOLS TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THESE TOPICS MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR JOINT STUDY OR DISCUSSION AT A DOL-MOL CONFERENCE.

4. MINISTER FUJII'S PARTY WAS MET AT AIRPORT ON JUNE 14 BY DOL AND JAPANESE EMBASSY STAFF. ON THE 15TH, THE MINISTER AND HIS WIFE, ACCOMPANIED BY LABOR COUNSELOR HIROMI, VISITED NIAGARA FALLS. ON THE 16TH, THE MINISTER MET WITH AFL/CIO PRESIDENT MEANY PRIOR TO DOL LUNCHEON. FOLLOWING DOL MEETING, MINISTER HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT EMBASSY. SECRETARY MARSHALL'S WIFE, JOINED BY WIVES OF U.S. BROWN AND D.U.S. SAMUEL, ENTERTAINED MINISTER FUJII'S WIFE AT LUNCHEON AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART. MINISTER AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTY DEPARTED JUNE 17 FOR SAN FRANCISCO AND TOKYO.

5. DOL INTENDS TO PREPARE PAPERS WITH PLANS FOR JAPAN CONFERENCE AND OTHER COLLABORATION. THESE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO MOL THROUGH EMBASSY OF JAPAN. THE PAPERS WILL BE COORDINATED WITH STATE AND COPIES WILL BE AIR POUCHED TO EMBASSY TOKYO AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE PASSED TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY. EMBASSY TOKYO WILL BE ASKED TO DO FOLLOW-UP ACTION. DOL ALSO INTENDS TO INVITE EMBASSY OF JAPAN ECONOMIC MINISTER TO DOL FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS WITH EXPECTATION THAT DOL POSITION WILL BE FED BACK TO MOL.

6. FINAL GUEST LIST, NEWS RELEASES AND OTHER MATERIALS RELATING TO VISIT WILL BE MAILED LABATT.

7. DOL APPRECIATES FINE EMBASSY COOPERATION IN BRINGING THIS MEETING ABOUT.. VANCE

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